complaint algorithms that pose questions to the patient and diagnoses a medical condition based upon whether the patient's responses result in a score exceeding a threshold value. The questionnaire described in Iliff is not intended to elicit questions about the general state of a patient's health, but rather to arrive at a diagnosis. One limitation of the system is that once the algorithm is keyed toward a particular disease, the questions do not elicit responses regarding a patient's condition or state of health that are inconsistent or not immediately relevant to the hypothesis, unless that hypothesis is subsequently ruled out. As a result, the responses collected by the system described in Iliff provide an incomplete view of the patient's overall medical status or well-being.

Paragraph 10:

A number of short, health-related questionnaires, some of them web-based, have been used in general population surveys, clinical practice, and medical research. For example, the SF-36® Health Survey is a health risk assessment questionnaire consisting of 36 multiple choice questions. Although the SF-36® Health Survey can be completed by the patient, it is not designed to gather comprehensive organ system information, and is fixed to 36 questions. Forms are also available on the web for completion by prospective participants in clinical trials. A user enters basic medical information into a form, the information is stored, and the user is contacted if an applicable clinical trial becomes available for participation. Simple medical surveys are also available as web-based forms. In general, such web-based surveys consist of single- or multi-page forms that are static: the user completes a set number of questions and clicks a submit button to submit the data to the web server. There is no substantial interactive behavior between the user and questionnaire.

Paragraph 56:

Typically, a single form can lead to multiple forms; e.g., both conditions C_{12} and C_{13} can evaluate to true. Various mechanisms can be employed to determine which form should be presented next in such a situation. For example, the conditions and associated forms can be ordered; e.g., condition C_{12} is always evaluated before condition C_{13}. If, in this case, it is desired to present both forms F_2 and F_3, then a condition C_{23} having the